

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims and their status as of this Amendment is as follows:

Claims 1-21 (Cancelled)

22.(Currently amended) A process for closing a container with a closure consisting of two separate elements, namely a closure cap and a sealing device, the method comprising:
selecting a container, having a mouth region, which has been filled;
placing a sealing device having a sealing cap onto the container so as to cover and seal the mouth region of the container;
cleaning the container in the mouth region of the container with the sealing cap in place to seal the mouth region; and
fitting the closure cap ~~onto the sealed container~~ over the sealing cap following cleaning of the mouth region to finally seal and close the mouth region of the container.

23.(Previously presented) The process according to claim 22, wherein the method comprises cleaning the container by a method selected from at least one of the group consisting of spraying the mouth region with a cleaning liquid, brushing the mouth region, and wiping off the mouth region.

24.(Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, further comprising drying the mouth region using a drying gas.

25.(Currently amended) The process according to claim 22, wherein the closure cap is made of metal, and wherein the process further comprises fitting the closure cap onto the mouth region using a shaping tool that shapes the metal closure cap to the

exterior contours of the mouth region of the container.

26.(Previously presented) The process according to claim 22, wherein the closure cap is plastic and the process comprises fitting the plastic closure cap onto the sealed mouth region by screwing the closure cap onto the mouth region.

27.(Previously presented) The process according to claim 22, wherein the method comprises fitting the sealing cap on the mouth region by a fitting tool.

28.(Previously presented) The process according to claim 22, wherein the method comprises drying the mouth region with a drying tool.

29.(Currently amended) The process according to claim 22, wherein the closure ~~cap~~ cap is shaped by a shaping tool.

30.(Previously presented) The process according to claim 22, wherein the closure cap is a screw cap and wherein the closure cap is screwed on by a screwing tool.

31.(Previously presented) The process according to claim 22, wherein the sealing cap has at least one retainer member interacting with the container.

32.(Previously presented) The process according to claim 31, wherein the retainer member forms a press fit.

33.(Previously presented) The process according to claim 31, wherein the retainer member comprises a web which extends around the sealing cap and interacts with the mouth region.

34.(Previously presented) The process according to claim 31, wherein the closure cap consists of one of the group consisting of a crown cap and a rotary crown cap.

35.(Previously presented) The process according to claim 22, wherein the method comprises selecting a closure cap having a latching means, and using the latching means of the closure cap to retain the sealing cap to the closure cap.

36.(Currently amended) A dual element closure for a container comprising: a sealing device with a sealing cap having a bottom positioned for disposition within the interior of a mouth of a container and having a retaining member being configured positioned near said bottom of said sealing cap for attachment to a engagement with an interior surface of the mouth region of a container; and a separate closure cap for fitting over the sealing cap and retaining the sealing cap in place when the closure cap is secured to a container.

37.(Previously presented) The closure according to claim 36, wherein the retaining member forms a press fit.

38.(Currently amended) The closure according to claim 36, wherein the retaining member comprises a peripheral web running around the bottom of the sealing cap with within the mouth region of a container.

39.(Previously presented) The closure according to claim 36, wherein the closure cap is selected from the group consisting of a crown cap and a rotary crown cap.

40.(Previously presented) The closure according to claim 36, wherein the

closure cap further comprises a latching means formed by a protrusion which retains the sealing cap.

41.(Currently amended) The closure according to claim 36, wherein the sealing cap has ~~a bottom~~; an encircling wall which encircles the bottom and extends around outwardly from the bottom, and a flange which adjoins the encircling wall.

42.(Previously presented) The closure according to claim 41, wherein the sealing cap further comprises a bent-down border and an annular wall extending from the flange.

43.(Previously presented) The closure according to claim 41, wherein the bottom has a first base surface and a second base surface.

44.(Previously presented) The closure according to claim 43, wherein the second base surface extends from the first base surface at an angle.

45.(Currently amended) The closure according to claim 41, wherein the bottom has a first side oriented for direction toward an interior of a container and a second side oriented for direction away from the interior of a container, and webs which extend above the height of the encircling wall outwardly from said second side in a radially inwardly direction from said encircling wall to provide stiffening of said sealing cap.

46.(Previously presented) The closure according to claim 36, wherein the closure cap is formed of aluminum.

47.(Previously presented) The closure according to claim 36, wherein the sealing cap is plastic.

48. (Previously presented) The closure according to claim 36, wherein the sealing cap comprises aluminum.

49. (Previously presented) The closure according to claim 36, wherein the sealing cap is coated with a sealing compound.

50. (Previously presented) The closure according to claim 36, wherein the sealing cap comprises at least two bonded materials.